

## ABSTRACT

An indicator material for assessing body odor of the present invention comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a substance (A) which is a  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid compound represented by the formula (1), a substance (B) which is a derivative of the compound represented by the formula (1), a substance (C) which is an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position represented by the formula (2), and a substance (D) which is a derivative of the compound represented by the formula (2). The present invention also provides a method of producing the compound represented by the formula (2) by incubating perspiration originated from a human in an environment with an oxygen concentration of 10 v/v% or less. The present invention also provides a kit for assessing body odor of a human, wherein the kit for assessing body odor of a human includes a coloration reagent which reacts with  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid originated from perspiration of a human.